

Message Text

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SUBJ: SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS IN GREENLAND

REF A) STATE A-308

B) STATE 117743

C) STATE 109003

D) COPENHAGEN 1402

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1) DANISH COMMISSION FOR SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION IN GREENLAND WAS BRIEF MAY 22 ON PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN GREENLAND. THE BRIEFINGS, WHICH WERE WELL RECEIVED, WERE GIVEN BY DR. SAM SILVERMAN AND MAJOR WILSON EDWARDS OF THE AIR FORCE CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH LABORATORY (AIR FORCE PROJECTS); MR. RONALD MACGREGOR OF THE OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH (NAVY PROJECTS); DR. GOERGE D. ASHTON OF THE US ARMY COLD REGIONS RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING LABORATORY (ARMY PROJECTS); AND MAJOR FRED FOWLER OF THE SIXTH WEATHER WING, ANDRES AFB (USAF METEOROLOGICAL ROCKET PROGRAM AT THULE AB). FOLLOWING THE BRIEFINGS, PERMANENT UNDERSECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY

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FOR GREENLAND, ERIC HESSELBJERG, STATED THE COMMISSION

WOULD CONSIDER THE REQUESTED PROJECTS AND INFORM THE EMBASSY OF ITS DECISION IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2) IN ADDITION TO THE PROJECTS OUTLINED IN REF A, THE COMMISSION WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE ADDITIONAL NAVY PROJECT, VLF SOUNDER OPERATIONS (REF B), WHICH WAS REALLY PRESENTED BY MACGREGOR.

3) MAJOR EDWARDS INFORMED THE COMMISSION THAT PROPOSED FLIGHTS IN JUNE UNDER AF PROJECT 7663 (REF C) HAD BEEN CANCELLED AND FLIGHTS WERE NOT SCHEDULED FOR JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER. CONSEQUENTLY PRIORITY CLEARANCE FOR THIS PROJECT (PARA 2 REF D) WAS NOT REQUIRED AND IT COULD BE CONSIDERED ALONG WITH THE OTHERS PROPOSED.

4) DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING, HESSELBJERG AND OTHER DANISH PARTICIPANTS INFORMED THE AMERICAN BRIEFING TEAM THAT THIS WOULD BE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION AS PRESENTLY STRUCTURED. TO REPLACE THE PRESENT BODY HESSELBJERG INTENDS TO REQUEST THE DANISH RESEARCH COMMISSION (A NATION ADVISORY BODY) TO NOMINATE A MORE LIMITED GROUP, COMPOSED OF ONE SCIENTIST FROM EACH APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINE WHO HIMSELF IS CURRENTLY ACTIVE IN GREENLAND RESEARCH. HESSELBJERG TOLD THE AMERICAN TEAM, HOWEVER THAT THIS CHANGE WOULD NOT AFFECT THE PRESENT PROCEDURE FOR SEEKING APPROVAL FOR US SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS IN GREENLAND. HE EXPECTED THAT THE NEW COMMISSION WOULD CONTINUE TO WISH TO BE BRIEFED EACH SPRING BY AN AMERICAN TEAM OF EXPERTS ON THE PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR THE FOLLOWING FISCAL YEAR.

5) COMMENT: THE PRESENT COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED BY ESKE BRUUN, FORMER PERMANENT UNDERSECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY FOR GREENLAND AND WAS COMPOSED MAINLY OF INTERNATIONALLY-REPUTED SCIENTISTS AT OR OVER RETIREMENT AGE. THE NEW COMMISSION CAN BE EXPECTED, CONSEQUENTLY, TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE CRITICAL, IN BOTH THE TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL SENSE, OF THE US SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM IN GREENLAND. THIS EXPECTATION DERIVES FROM THE FACT THAT ITS MEMBERS WILL BE SELECTED BY THE DANISH RESEARCH COUNCIL, A BODY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFLECTING THE GENERAL POLITICAL SPECTRUM IN DENMARK, AND FROM THE FACT THAT BEING ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN GREENLAND RESEARCH ITS MEMBERS WILL WISH TO COORDINATE OR COMPARE THEIR OWN PROJECTS WITH THOSE BEING CONDUCTED BY THE US.

6) RECOMMENDATIONS: FOR THIS REASON, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE BRIEFING TEAM FOR NEXT YEARS' COMMISSION MEETING INCLUDE ONE OR TWO SCIENTISTS THEMSELVES

ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN GREENLAND RESEARCH AS WELL AS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS. SECONDLY, IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO INSURE A GOOD MEASURE OF COUNTINUITY FROM YEAR TO YEAR, PARTICULARLY FROM THIS YEAR TO NEXT YEAR IN VIEW OF THE ADVENT OF A NEW GROUP ON THE DANISH SIDE. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS, THEREFORE, THAT THE 1976 BRIEFING TEAM ALSO INCLUDE AS MANY MEMBERS AS POSSIBLE FROM THIS YEAR'S TEAM. FINALLY THE EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT THE SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS BEING CONDUCTED IN GREENLAND BY NASA THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, AND ANY OTHER USG-RELATED AGENCIES BE INTERGRATED INTO THE NOW WELL-ESTABLISHED CLEARANCE PROCEDURE EMPLOYED FOR DEFENSE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THESE ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED ON THE BRIEFING TEAM NEXT YEAR. COORDINATION OF ALL CLEARANCE REQUESTS IN ONE PACKAGE WILL, HOPEFULLY, ASSUAGE THE DANISH MFA'S ANNOYANCE AT THE LARGE NUMBER OF SEPARATE REQUESTS THE EMBASSY HAS SUBMITTED IN RECENT MONTHS.

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